

# Gardening

## for Butterflies and Moths



**Butterfly  
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment



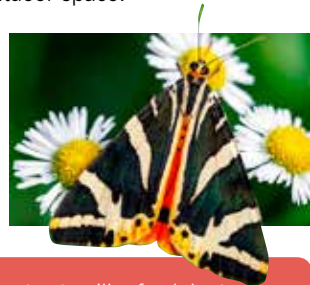
# Gardening for butterflies and moths

Habitat loss is having a serious impact on the UK's butterflies and moths. Intensive farming, commercial forestry and urban development have limited space in our landscape for wildlife. Gardening trends have seen flowerbeds replaced with decking or astro turf and one in four front gardens has been paved for parking.

More than two-thirds of the UK's butterflies are declining, with many species vanishing

faster from towns and cities than the countryside. The abundance of the UK's larger moths has dropped significantly during the past 40 years with three species becoming extinct since 2000.

Our gardens cover a greater area of land than all the UK's national nature reserves. Please help to reverse butterfly and moth declines by providing food and shelter for them in your outdoor space.



Discover more butterfly and moth-friendly flowers, find out about caterpillar foodplants and get inspiration for your outdoor space at [www.butterfly-conservation.org/gardening](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/gardening)



## Nectar plants

Different species of butterfly and moth fly at different times of year. Choose plants that will flower in turn from March to November to provide nectar throughout the flight season.

Here are some we recommend:

- Aubretia
- Buddleia
- Candytuft
- Hebe
- Ice Plant
- Lavender
- Michaelmas Daisy
- Oregano
- Pot Marigold
- Perennial Wallflower
- Red Valerian
- *Verbena bonariensis*

## Five things you can do in your garden to help butterflies and moths.

**1 Provide flying fuel**  
Attract butterflies and moths with flowers they can drink from. Many good nectar plants are hardy, perennial and easy to grow in flowerbeds or containers.

**2 Cater for caterpillars**  
Adult butterflies and moths lay eggs on the foodplant of their caterpillar so that when they hatch they have a 'ready meal'. When you spot a butterfly or moth in your garden or nearby, look them up on the species pages of Butterfly Conservation's website. Find their listed foodplants and add these to your patch to encourage them to breed.

**3 Go wild**  
Create a mini flower-meadow (from native seed) or simply leave an area of existing grass to grow, to provide food, shelter and breeding habitat for butterflies and moths.

**4 Ditch pesticides**  
Avoid chemicals that kill insects. As well as butterflies, moths and bees you could be attacking ladybirds, ground beetles and spiders – the natural enemies of your garden pests.

**5 Be peat free**  
Peat bogs are home to many special animals and plants, including the Large Heath butterfly. Avoid peat-based compost and help to preserve these precious habitats.



# Join Today

Get 50% off membership and receive your copy of *Gardening for Butterflies and Moths*, an informative and inspirational booklet by gardener Kate Bradbury, visit [www.butterfly-conservation.org/gardeningoffer](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/gardeningoffer)



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**Images:** Small Tortoiseshell on Heleniums (Cath Walker), Red Admiral on Dahlia Collarette (Marcus Whitmore), window box (Cath Scott), Jersey Tiger on Daisy (Adam Gor) and Peacock on Buddleia (Damian Money).

**Front cover:** Small Tortoiseshell on Lavender (Matt Berry). **Back cover:** Garden Tiger (Iain Cowe)